

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 13. (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture for dietetic food products and pharmaceuticals containing several carbohydrates, characterized in that said mixture consists of two different, substantially soluble carbohydrate components A and B, which remain undigested in the gastrointestinal tract and enter the large intestine without being resorbed and wherein,

carbohydrate component A consists of at least one monosaccharide or at least one oligosaccharide of up to six monosaccharide units, or a mixture of two or of more of these saccharides;

carbohydrate component B consists of one polysaccharide or a mixture of two or more polysaccharides containing at least seven monosaccharide up to a maximum of 100 monosaccharide units; and

wherein the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component A have a different structure and a different size than the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component B;

carbohydrate component A is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent and carbohydrate component B is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent of the sum of the carbohydrate components A + B, and that

at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components component A have a prebiotic effect and at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the component B have a prebiotic effect[.]:

with the proviso that said mixture optionally contains at least one nutritive carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of lactose, maltodextrine and starch.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 characterized in that either at least 80 eight weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the

carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or and are bifidogenic, or at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria or are bifidogenic.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14 characterized in that at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or and are bifidogenic, or at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria or are bifidogenic.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 30, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 17, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with $A + B = 100$ weight percent.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with $A + B = 100$ weight percent.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 19, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises about 90 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises about 10 weight percent.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30, characterized in that either the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or and α 1-6 position, or the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 or α 1-6 position.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 21, characterized in that either the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position, or the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 or α 1-6 position.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that either the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position, or the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 or α 1-6 position.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 17, characterized in that either the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position, or the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 or α 1-6 position.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that either the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate

components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position, or the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 or α 1-6 position.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 30, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 30, characterized in that, apart from the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B, they contain an insoluble carbohydrate or a soluble and digestible carbohydrate or a mixture of one or more of these carbohydrates.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A dietetical or pharmaceutical composition containing a carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14 whereby said dietetical or pharmaceutical composition containing said carbohydrate mixture promotes the growth of lactic acid bacteria in the large intestine of a human.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or and promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria or for

promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which comprises administrating to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the composition of claim 30.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or and promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, or for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria which comprises administrating to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the carbohydrate mixture of claim 14.

Claim 33. (New) The carbohydrate mixture of claim 14 wherein the difference in the structure between carbohydrate components A and B is due to different types of glycosidic bonding whereby carbohydrate component A has one type of glycosidic bonding and carbohydrate component B another type of glycosidic bonding which is different from the glycosidic bonding of carbohydrate component A.

Claim 34. (New) The carbohydrate mixture of claim 14 wherein the difference in the structure between carbohydrate components A and B results from carbohydrate component A being selected from one class of carbohydrates and carbohydrate component B being selected from another class of carbohydrates.

Claim 35. (New) The carbohydrate mixture of claim 14 which consists of said components A and B and said nutritive carbohydrate.